



BRIEFING NOTE TO THE MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES

RESPONSE LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN

(For Signature)

TIMELINE

Your decision is requested by **January 28, 2020**, to ensure that the Governor of Michigan receives your response prior to the Michigan State of the State taking place on January 29, 2020.

PURPOSE

To request that you sign the proposed response letter to Governor Whitmer's letter of December 12, 2019 (**Annex A**).

SUMMARY

- Governor Whitmer sent you a letter on December 12, 2019 inviting you to her State of the State address on January 29, 2020 in Lansing, Michigan to discuss the Gordie Howe International Bridge Project [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

CONTEXT AND KEY FACTS

- The State of the State address is an important and time-honoured custom, one during which the Governor lays out her vision for the upcoming year before both legislative chambers.
- Governor Whitmer became the Governor of Michigan in January 2019 and is, as was her predecessor, a strong supporter of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Project.

PROTECTED B

CONSIDERATIONS

- It would be appropriate for you to have a meeting with the Governor of Michigan in the near future to reiterate that the Gordie Howe International Bridge project remains a top priority for the Government of Canada.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that you sign the attached response letter in Annex A at your earliest convenience.

Kelly Gillis
Deputy Minister
Infrastructure and Communities

Jan 28 2020
Date

I approve. I do not approve. For discussion.
C. McKenna
The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

JAN 28 2020
Date

Attachment:

Annex A – Response Letter
Annex B – Incoming Letter from Governor Whitmer
Annex C –

ANNEX A



The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of the State of Michigan
George W. Romney Building
111 South Capitol Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48909
U.S.A

JAN 28 2020

Dear Governor Whitmer,

Thank you for your letter dated December 12, 2019, inviting me to attend the State of the State address that you will deliver at the Michigan Capitol in Lansing on January 29, 2020.

I am truly honoured to have been invited to this important event as a clear indication of the long-standing friendship between Michigan and Canada. I am unfortunately unable to accept your invitation as my House of Commons responsibilities require me to remain in Ottawa at that time. However, I strongly welcome the opportunity to highlight our special partnership and shared commitment to the Gordie Howe International Bridge project in the very near future.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge is a top priority for the Government of Canada and we recognize the importance of a secure and efficient Windsor-Detroit trade corridor. We too are committed to building safe, secure, environmentally responsible and efficient transportation networks that support global trade and economic growth. The Gordie Howe International Bridge will provide unlimited opportunities for the economies of the United States and Canada, and continue to grow the strongest trading relationship in the world.

Michigan is our valued and equal partner in this important project. We not only share a critical border, common values and a rich history; we also share the world's most highly integrated economies. To that end, I am grateful that you and your administration are doing everything within your power to ensure the successful delivery of this once-in-a-lifetime infrastructure project.

...2

Canada

Again, thank you for honouring me with your invitation and for your unwavering support of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. I look forward to working with you and your officials on the implementation of this strategic international infrastructure project as we build for the future.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CMK".

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

ANNEX B

**Page 7
is withheld
pursuant to paragraph
15(1)
of the *Access to Information Act***

**La page 7
Font l'objet d'une exception totale
conformément à la disposition du paragraphe
15(1)
de la *loi sur l'accès à l'information***

ANNEX C

**Pages 9-10
are withheld
pursuant to paragraphs
15(1), 21(1)(a) & 21(1)(b)
of the *Access to Information Act***

**Les pages 9-10
Font l'objet d'une exception totale
conformément aux dispositions des
paragraphes
15(1), 21(1)(a) & 21(1)(b)
de la *loi sur l'accès à l'information***